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Dear Florida stakeholders,

EPA has posted the final Version 3 and 3.1 Florida guidelines on its Website at:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs_lenders_raters.nh_v3_florida.

EPA has also posted its responses to the comments and questions that were received and compiled during the draft guideline comment period.

The final guidelines are nearly identical to those that were proposed during the comment period. The most significant change is that the new requirements will be implemented in two phases, named Version 3 and Version 3.1. The implementation schedule is defined as follows:

ENERGY STAR for New Homes Implementation Schedule for Florida

Version #	Applicable to Homes with Permit Date On or After	Version Description
Version 2.5	04/01/2011	HERS Index \leq HERS 77 or Florida Builder Option package. Air Barriers and Air Sealing sections of Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist enforced; all other checklists completed but not enforced.
Version 3	01/01/2012	HERS Index \leq HERS 77 or Florida Builder Option package. All checklists completed & enforced.
Version 3.1	07/01/2012	Version 3.1 Florida ENERGY STAR Reference Design. All checklists completed & enforced.

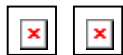
As you can see, Version 3 will fully enforce the inspection checklists at roughly the same time as the national program. However, the more rigorous energy efficiency features that will be required in response to Florida's new energy code will not be implemented until six months later, under Version 3.1. This policy will provide more time for our partners to work with the updated HERS software that will calculate the HERS Index Targets for homes qualified in Florida. Note that EPA continues to provide an extended implementation timeline for low-income projects financed through low-income housing agencies, which is explained in the Version 2.5, 3, and 3.1 program documents for Florida.

EPA will host a webinar for stakeholders in Florida to review the final Version 3 and 3.1 guidelines on Wednesday, October 5 from 2-3pm Eastern. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/403607912>.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Thank you for your work promoting ENERGY STAR.

Best Regards,
The ENERGY STAR for New Homes Team

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